



Milken Educator Awards

## **Edward Coleman**

**Teacher**

**2009**

### **At the time of the Award, Edward Coleman was:**

Teacher

North Central High School

Indianapolis, IN

**Subject(s) Taught:** English/Language

**Grade(s):** 12

### **Biographical Information:**

Most people frequent bookstores for a schedule of book readings and discussions with writers and poets. These normally rare opportunities to interact with masters of the literary craft are commonplace in Edward Coleman's twelfth-grade English class at North Central High School in Indianapolis, IN. Poetry and a passion for language are what make Coleman's classes truly extraordinary. Each class is rung in by the reading of a poem. A published poet himself, Coleman has met many distinguished writers and poets in 15 years of teaching. Coleman invites many of these colleagues into his classroom. Coleman also used a \$3000 grant to start a used bookstore that is now self-sustaining.

Using a well-researched, multi-disciplinary approach to teaching- bolstered by the extensive knowledge he gained obtaining two master's degrees, one from Harvard University and the other from Emory University- Coleman incorporates philosophy, art and history into his English classes, creating a poetic harmony of several different humanities subjects. Recently selected by North Central students as the "most influential teacher," Coleman puts his entire self into his classes and students, and it has paid off. North Central boasts the highest SAT writing scores in the state, and the highest International Baccalaureate (IB) scores it has seen in the past 20 years.

Note: This biography was updated on 10/2/2009